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MAR 08 2006
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In re application of
Bruce S. HALL
Application No. 10/510,691
Filed: October 08, 2004
For: SHRAPNEL CONTAINMENT SYSTEM
AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING SAME

**DECISION ON PETITION
TO MAKE SPECIAL
(ACCELERATED EXAMINATION
AND COUNTER TERRORISM)**

This is a decision on the petition filed on October 08, 2004 under 37 CFR 1.102(c) to make the above-identified application special under the accelerated examination procedure set forth in MPEP § 708.02 (VIII) or alternatively to make the above-identified application special on the basis of inventions for countering terrorism § 708.02 (XI).

The requirements for granting special status under section VIII are: (A) a petition to make special accompanied by the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(i); (B) all claims being directed to a single invention, or an election without traverse if the Office determines that all the claims are not directed to a single invention; (C) a statement that a pre-examination search was made listing the field of search; (D) one copy of each of the references deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims if said references are not already of record; and (E) a detailed discussion of how the claimed subject matter is patentable over the references in accordance with 37 CFR 1.111 (b) and (c).

The requirement for granting special status under section XI is: (A) a statement explaining how the invention contributes to countering terrorism.

With respect to the petition to make special under accelerated examination, the petition fails to adequately meet requirement (B) above. Item (B) is not met because the petition fails to include an election without traverse, or a statement that applicants are willing to elect without traverse should a restriction or election be required.

With respect to the petition to make special under counter terrorism, applicant's invention pertains to the protection of workers in a building in the event of an explosion as seen in the aftermath of recent terrorist attacks where buildings were targeted for destruction. Specifically, the main source of damage is not necessarily the initial blast of an impact but the flying shrapnel generated by such an explosion. The present invention provides prefabricated wall panels that have been treated with an elastomeric material to create penetration resistant finished panels that can be fastened to existing walls of an office building etc.

Petitioner states that the exemplary embodiments of the invention claimed and disclosed would provide protection to the workers in a building in which the inventive panels are installed, and thereby counter, to a degree, the deadly effects of a terrorism attack upon a building.

These statements adequately explain how the invention contributes to countering terrorism. The requirement for special status under MPEP § 708.02 XI has been met, the petition is GRANTED.

Given the above grant of special status based upon countering terrorism, the petition based upon accelerated examination is DISMISSED as MOOT.

SUMMARY: Petition to Make Special GRANTED.



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SNM/pav: 03/02/06